

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY IO/CMD:RAPOOLE:BAL

APPROVED BY IO:RDMOREY

IO/CMD:PDWYMAN

IO/BAPS:WSOUTHWORTH

AID/PHA/FDRC:WDALTON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNGA, AORG (UNDRO), SWEL

SUBJECT: 30TH GA, AGENDA ITEM 63 - POSSIBLE INITIATIVE TO
CREATE AN EXPERTS PANEL TO ADVISE UNDRO

1. WITH THE VERY CONSIDERABLE AUGMENTATION OF THE OPERA-
TING CAPACITY (STAFF, FACILITIES, FUNDING, ETC.) OF THE UN
DISASTER RELIEF OFFICE, RESULTING MAINLY FROM GA RESOLUTION
3243(XXIX) INITIATED BY THE U.S., WE HAVE FELT THE NEED TO
CREATE AN ADVISORY PANEL OF EXPERTS TO OVERSEE AND
ADVISE THE UN DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR AND HIS OFFICE
IN CARRYING OUT THESE EXPANDED FUNCTIONS, I.E. TO KEEP
UNDRO ON THE TRACKS. WE ARE THINKING IN TERMS OF A SMALL
PANEL OF ABOUT SEVEN TO NINE EXPERTS DRAWN FROM TRADITIONAL
DONOR AND DISASTER-PRONE COUNTRIES (IF POSSIBLE WEIGHTED IN
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FAVOR OF THE FORMER), TO BE NAMED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL,

WHICH WOULD MEET WITH UNDRO ANNUALLY FOR ABOUT A WEEK. WHAT WE WOULD WISH TO AVOID WOULD BE ANY EFFORT TO CONVERT THIS IDEA INTO SOME SORT OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WHICH MIGHT WELL BALLOON OUT OF PROPORTION INTO AN OVERSIZED REPRESENTATIVE BODY, LIKELY TO BE POLITICIZED, AND SERVING MORE AS A COSTLY ENCUMBRANCE THAN A USEFUL ADVISORY PANEL. (THIS WOULD BE NO IMPEDIMENT TO THE SYG SELECTING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO SERVE IN AN EXPERT CAPACITY. A PRIVATE EXPERT, E.G. FROM ICRC, MIGHT ALSO BE INCLUDED.)

2. THIS IDEA COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BY A SIMPLE GA RESOLUTION INTRODUCED IN COMMITTEE 2 TO "AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO APPOINT A PANEL OF SEVEN/NINE) EXPERTS DRAWN FROM DONOR AND DISASTER-PRONE COUNTRIES TO MEET WITH UNDRO ANNUALLY IN ORDER TO ADVISE THE COORDINATOR ON THE ACTIVITIES OF HIS OFFICE." (THE NOTION OF OVERSIGHT OR MONITORING UNDRO'S ACTIVITIES MIGHT BEST BE LEFT UNSTATED BUT IMPLICIT. ALSO, SUCH MODALITIES AS REPORTING BACK TO THE SYG COULD BE LEFT TO THE LATTER TO WORK OUT.) THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT WITH COMMITTEE 5, PRESUMABLY WITH THE ADVICE OF THE ACABQ, BUT THESE SHOULD BE QUITE MODEST.

3. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING THE VIEWS OF USUN AND MISSION GENEVA ON THIS IDEA. USUN IS REQUESTED TO SOUND OUT A FEW KEY DONOR REPS (E.G. MAIN CONTRIBUTORS TO THE VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND FOR STRENGTHENING UNDRO). IF REACTIONS ARE FAVORABLE - AND IF WE CAN BE REASONABLY CERTAIN THAT WE CAN AVOID THE CONTINGENCY MENTIONED IN PARA 1 ABOVE - WE VISUALIZE THE NEXT STEP AS INFORMING THE SYG AND BERKOL OF OUR IDEA AND BROADENING NEW YORK CONSULTATIONS TO INCLUDE KEY DISASTER-PRONE COUNTRIES AND OTHER DONORS, PREPARATORY TO INTRODUCING A DRAFT RESOLUTION, WITH CO-SPONSORS. KISSINGER

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